

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend claims 15 and 20-23, as shown below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application:

Claims 1-13 (cancelled)

Claim 14 (previously presented): A thin layer material consisting essentially of amorphous hafnium oxide having a density less than 8 gm/cm³.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A stack of thin layers, comprising said stack including at least one layer consisting essentially of amorphous hafnium oxide having a density less than 8 gm/cm³.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The stack of thin layers as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the stack comprises at least one layer of another material formed on a surface of the amorphous hafnium oxide layer.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The stack of thin layers as claimed in Claim 16, wherein said another material comprises silicon oxide.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The stack of thin layers as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the stack comprises alternate layers of amorphous hafnium oxide having a density less than 8 gm/cm³ and another material.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The stack of thin layers as claimed in Claim 18, wherein said another material comprises silicon oxide.

Claim 20 (currently amended): An optical component having on at least one surface at least one layer consisting essentially of amorphous hafnium oxide having a density less than 8 gm/cm³.

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Claim 21 (currently amended): The optical component as claimed in Claim 20, and comprising a stack of said thin layers of amorphous hafnium oxide.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The optical component as claimed in Claim 21, wherein the stack comprises alternate layers of said layers of amorphous hafnium oxide having a density less than 8 gm/cm³ and layers of another material.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The optical component as claimed in Claim 22, where said another material comprises silicon oxide.

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